

December 20, 2004

TO: Chief School Administrators
Principals
Charter Schools Lead Persons

FROM: Richard C. Ten Eyck, Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: **Commissioner's Paper on Teaching and Learning**

I am pleased to inform you that Commissioner Librera has developed and is seeking comment on a discussion paper entitled **Ensuring Quality Teaching and Learning for New Jersey's Students and Educators**. This far reaching, cutting edge paper provides a new vision for professional learning and the teaching profession leading to greater teacher efficacy and improved student learning. The attached paper is also available on the Department of Education website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/> . To access the paper directly please click on the compass marked "Upcoming Opportunities" located at the center of the homepage.

In the paper, Commissioner Librera presents an integrated set of strategies to strengthen teaching, enhance professional learning, and promote teacher leadership and excellence. These strategies would:

- Redesign professional development, moving from the current individualized requirement to a group approach, focused on team/school level student learning goals;
- Extend leadership opportunities to exemplary teachers through a new Teacher with Advanced Standing endorsement;
- Identify and share best practices in professional learning;
- Provide support for teachers in need of assistance; and
- Devise a more effective standards-based teacher evaluation process, including a state recertification process for individuals not meeting the standards.

The Commissioner invites your comments on the discussion paper by email or regular mail service. Email your comments to QTLFeedback@doe.state.nj.us a Department of Education email address strictly dedicated to comments or send them by mail to Dr. Jay Doolan, director, Office of Academic and Professional Standards, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. Comments will be accepted through February 18, 2005.

The Commissioner will provide information to the State Board in March, including a summary of the feedback and the possible policy implications. He will then appoint a Task Force on Quality Teaching and Learning which will make recommendations for policy changes to implement the new vision for teaching and learning through administrative code and statute.

Please share the Commissioner's paper widely with principals, teachers and other colleagues and encourage them to provide feedback on this important discussion paper. The Commissioner is seeking widespread feedback from educators and stakeholders to enrich and enlarge upon the vision presented in the discussion paper. The Commissioner's proposals will lead to significant changes that can significantly improve teaching and learning in New Jersey.

RCT/JD:pb *S:\PBAKER\Comm. Memo to CSA re White PD Paper.doc*

Attachment

c: Commissioner Librera

Members, State Board of Education

Dwight Pfennig

Assistant Commissioners

Ellen Frede

Jay Doolan

Erika Leak

County Superintendents

College Presidents and Deans

LEE Group